

The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
 By mail, per month 50
 By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00



PORT ARTHUR.

Quintous news comes from Port Arthur. If the private letter reported from Shanghai is true, that fortress is in a desperate plight and upon the verge of conquest or surrender, says the New York Tribune. That the letter is true we may well believe. Of course, there have hitherto been many other reports that the place was about to fall which have proved untrue. But it is obvious that each succeeding one is likelier to be true than its predecessor. No fortress can hold out forever against combined storm and famine. Sebastopol fell in time, and Port Arthur is hardly a Sebastopol. For weeks the Japanese have been raking the place with their artillery, and the Russian fire in reply has been growing weaker and weaker. The end must come at some time, and it seems reasonable to suppose that it is now close at hand.

Hope of raising the siege is, of course, quite dead. There never was any real hope of that being done by the Baltic fleet, and the Russians themselves must now realize the fact. At one time there was some hope of aid from General Kuropatkin though even that was slight ever after the battle of Man-Shan. But that hope, too, is dead. It has been killed, either by the prowess of Oyama or by the blundering of Alexieff and Jilinsky. Kuropatkin has done its best. But even the gods contend in vain against stupidity—such as Alexieff's. A high type of valor has been shown by General Stoessel and his comrades in their gallant defense of the place. Those so inclined may consider which is the more admirable, the stubborn valor which holds out to the end and dies in the last ditch, or the discretion which seeks terms when longer resistance is seen to be vain. The general judgment of the world will be that the defenders of Port Arthur have played a heroic part.

The effect of the fall of the place upon the general fortunes of the war will not be marked. It has been accepted as a foregone conclusion and has been fully discounted. The fighting strength of the Russians in the field will not be diminished. That of the Japanese may be somewhat increased after a time. How many men they have investing Port Arthur the world does not know. It must be some scores of thousands. These will be released by the fall of the place for service against Kuropatkin. But we assume they are much worn out with long and arduous campaigning, and will scarcely be in condition to go north and fight again until after a period of rest and recuperation. In time, however, they will be under Oyama's banners. The moral effect of the taking of Port Arthur will be considerable, though less than it would have been at an earlier date. Best of all, perhaps, will be the cessation of the dreadful slaughter which has long been going on around the place. How many lives have there been lost we do not know; but it is not at all improbable that they are as many as those lost in all the bloody battles at the north.

PROSPEROUS OREGON!

The city has no monopoly on business opportunities. Bumper crops throughout the state with glorious prices have had the effect of drawing attention to money that is made by progressive farmers, and even city people are dazzled by the returns, says the Portland Journal.

A Eugene man said he produced 2200 pounds of hops to the acre. Hops are selling for more than 30 cents, which would place his returns above \$600 an acre. Horticultural Commissioner Carson, of Grants Pass, said in his annual report that Rogue river apple growers were realizing as high as \$600 an acre this year, and none of the better orchardists were falling below \$150. Baker county potato producers have to their credit more than 600 bushels to the acre, or about \$300. A Klickitat family started two years ago into the turkey business, securing a dozen eggs at that time; last year they sold 30 turkeys and this year they have 725, of which about 650 will be put on the market. With an average of 14 pounds to the turkey and 20 cents the minimum price, this family may expect a revenue of \$1820 for the flock, which has fed on grasshoppers and waste of the community. Hood river orchardists do as well, if not

better, than Rogue river horticulturists, for they have a better established high market. Grand Round beet growers are said to realize from \$150 to \$600 an acre for their product, which is contracted for by the sugar refinery, and never seeks a market. A Willamette valley farmer sold one yearling hog for \$70 the buyer acquiring the animal for pork.

These figures are calculated to start the entire population to farming. Where has the average middle-classman such opportunities on a salary? Where is the thrifty eastern or Mississippi valley farmer doing so well? What of the wheat king, the cattle baron who is being forced to private pastures and feeding, the sheep man and the hay producer? If wheat land yields 40 bushels to the acre and 75 cents is paid for the crop, the farmer realizes about \$30 a acre. If hay land yields eight tons and \$8 is paid in the field, the result is \$64 an acre. Cattle are selling as low as 2 1-2 cents on foot, and \$30 is a fair price for a year-old steers this season. Sheep are profitable, but falling ranges increase cost of maintaining herds.

Without considering cost of production, gross returns are rather misleading, but most of the special products mentioned leave a far greater profit than the older products of the state, and will become the objects of eager development during the next decade.

LESSONS OF THE FAIR.

The horticulturists of Klickitat county, Washington, recently closed a successful fair at Goldendale. Every section of that prosperous valley was represented, and the fruit display pronounced the best ever made in the county. After paying expenses the association has a small balance in the treasury. The fair will be a feature of every harvest season in the future. Arrangements are being made for enlarging the field, and it is expected that the horticultural exhibit will develop into a real county fair for the display of all farm products.

Many important lessons are taught in the county fair exhibitions, says the Post-Intelligencer. The people come together and compare notes on growing and marketing farm products. They bring the best of tree and vine for exhibition purposes. Everyone expects to get a ribbon indicating some class of a premium. A plate of rich red apples often causes the farmer with no orchard to resolve on planting trees. A nice display of walnuts from some well known farm often removes all doubts about growing nuts and brings new thoughts into the minds of farm owners.

The social features of the county fair add much to the pleasure of county meetings. The people living in an agricultural community should become acquainted in a friendly way. There is more in life than mere dollars and cents. The rural population has a right to expect some pleasure from surrounding farms and gardens. When the social spirit is forgotten the interest in a community drops to the par of commercialism. The fair ground is the place where all can meet on a social level and participate in the harvest festivities with equal enjoyment.

The county fair is a public educator. It assists in the introduction of new products. Success with a certain crop causes others to plant seed and attempt its cultivation. In this manner the diversified crops of field, garden and orchard may be introduced in a community. There is always room for more people to engage in growing fruits and plants. Increasing the area devoted to any particular crop naturally enlarges the field for markets. With only a small tract given up to one fruit, the grower must seek a market. When many acres are planted to the same crop, the market seeks the grower.

Our democratic friends may be pardoned for resenting Secretary Hay's statement that "nothing but disaster could follow the reversal of the policies to which we are indebted for the prosperity of the last few years," but it is nothing more or less than what Mr. Hay called a "simple fact." American prosperity since 1896 has rested, so far as government is concerned, upon the American policy of protection to its industries and the resolute maintenance of the gold standard, and to neither of these has the democracy, as a party, contributed anything but pen or veiled hostility. There are times when the truth, however displeasing to some, must be spoken without fear or regard for party susceptibilities, and the present is one of them.

Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, on his recent visit to New York, expressed his ardent desire that Judge Parker should visit the second city of the country and reveal to his admirers in the west his inexhaustible stores of his knowledge and eloquence. But the democratic candidate prefers to express his views nearer home. When he opened his campaign he was firm in the assurance that he could not travel over a wide area in order to convince his hearers of his sincerity and earnestness, but he has since convinced himself that he must pay more attention to the requests of the east for speeches. Yet he is in no danger of rivalling Mr. Bryan in persistent oratory.

Columbia university is celebrating her 150th anniversary. Like the United States, she has a grand record in the matter of expansion. The time-honored university is worthy the great metropolis, and, like it, is planning largely for the future.

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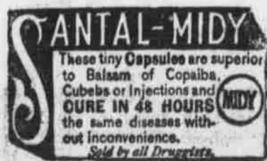


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Notice of Primary Election.

Notice is hereby given that a primary election for the republican party will be held in the city of Astoria, Oregon, Saturday, November 6, 1904, between the hours of 12 m. and 5 p. m. of said day, for the purpose of electing thirty-six (36) delegates to a republican city convention, hereinafter designated, which said delegates are apportioned as follows, to-wit:

- First Ward—12 delegates.
 - Second Ward—12 delegates.
 - Third Ward—12 delegates.
- The following polling places and judges for said primary election have been selected:
- First Ward—Polling place, courthouse; Judges of election, S. G. Trullinger, P. J. Goodman, J. A. Montgomery.
 - Second Ward—Polling place, office of C. E. Foster, 694 Commercial street; Judges of election, James W. Welch, C. E. Foster and B. A. Elgner.
 - Third Ward—Polling place, office of Astoria Box Company; Judges of election, Gust Holmes, Iver Anderson, W. T. Scholfield.
- Furthermore, notice is hereby given that a republican city convention will be held at the court house in the city

of Astoria, Oregon, on Wednesday, November 9, 1904, at the hour of 2 p. m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following city offices to be elected at the city election on Wednesday, December 14, 1904:

- One city attorney, for a term of two years.
 - One councilman from the Second ward, for a term of three years.
 - One councilman from the Third ward, for a term of three years.
- By order of the republican city central committee,
 HARRISON ALLEN, Chairman.
 CHAS. H. ABERCROMBIE, Sec.

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